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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-23, and 25-27 are being resubmitted. Claims 1, 8, 10, 14, 16, 22, 23, and 25-27 are currently amended. Claims 9, 13, and 24 are canceled by this amendment without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter. No new claims have been added.

Claim 10 has been objected to for an informality. Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 USC § 112. Claims 1-8, 10-12, 17-23, and 25-27 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shirasaki (U.S. Patent No. 6,587,100). Claims 10-12, 20-23, and 25-27 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bismarck (U.S. Patent No. 4,450,371). The Office action indicates that claims 9, 13-16, and 24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Objections

Claim 10 has been objected to for an informality (no period at end of claim) and has been amended in such a way as to correct the informality.

Rejections under 35 USC § 112

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being unclear as to whether "input signal" in the last line is an additional limitation on "an input signal" as previously cited in claim 1. Claim 8 has been amended to cite --the-- input signal to refer to antecedent "an input signal" in claim 1. Applicants believe that claim 8 is now in condition for allowance.

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Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9, 13-16, 24 have been objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but allowable if rewritten to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter and have amended base claims 1, 10, and 23 to effectively include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims of claims 9, 13, and 24, which have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter.

Dependencies of the remaining claims having been appropriately corrected, Applicants believe that claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-23, and 25 are now in condition for allowance.

Shirasaki

Claims 1-8, 10-12, 17-23, and 25-27 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shirasaki.

While Applicants agree that Shirasaki may disclose a circuit for switching a first and second source to a load so that no current passes between the switching circuits (Abstract) and may disclose cross-coupled inverters wherein a period T occurs in which the switching circuits are both open (e.g., col. 5, lines 12-39); Applicants also agree with the Examiner that none of the prior art disclosed or suggested the structure or operation recited in claim 9 (now claim 1 as amended) – namely “the inverters are further configured to remove both the current source and the current sink from the load concurrently to allow tristate operation of the driver” – or that recited in claim 13 (now claim 10 as amended) – namely “first and second tristate devices configured to disable the output signals of the first and second predriver output nodes” – or that recited in claim 24 (now claim 23 as amended) – namely “first and second tristate means for disabling the output signals of the first and second predriver output nodes.” Therefore

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Applicants believe that the rejections to claims 1-8, 10-12, 17-23 and 25 as being anticipated by Shirasaki should be withdrawn.

Furthermore, claim 26 has been amended to include a limitation of "configuring the cross-coupled inverters to remove both the current source and the current sink from the load concurrently to allow tristate operation of the circuit" similar to that of claim 1 as amended. Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejections to claims 26-27 as being anticipated by Shirasaki should be withdrawn and that claim 26, and claim 27 as being dependent from claim 26, are now in condition for allowance.

Bismarck

Claims 10-12, 20-23, and 25-27 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Bismarck.

Although Bismarck may disclose cross-coupled inverters and first and second outputs having a break before make delay, Applicants agree with the Examiner that none of the prior art disclosed or suggested to show the structure or operation recited in claim 1 as amended, claim 10 as amended, claim 23 as amended, or claim 26 as amended. Therefore Applicants believe that rejections to claims 10-12, 20-23, and 25-27 as being anticipated by Bismarck should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Office Action with respect to claims 1-8, 10-12, 17-23, and 25-27 are requested. Applicants submit that claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-23, and 25-27 are now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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In the event the examiner wishes to discuss any aspect of this response, please contact the attorney at the telephone number identified below.

Respectfully submitted,

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